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for from ten hundred to fifteen hundred pounds. Even Anthony Trollope received as much as fifteen thousand dollars for a novel. It is safe to say that there is not in America a publisher (not a magazine- or journal-owner) who would pay Mr. Howells the half of such a sum. In a word, we present the curious condition of a nation reading more books than any other nation in the world, and at the same time paying to its own writers of high merit the smallest incomes offered to such authors within the limits of civilization. A leading element in the general cause of this state of things may be found in the American reverence for the cheap counter. Low-priced books flung out in heaps constitute the chief feature of our book-stalls, and in these heaps are found but very few American books. The native author is protected from home thieves. These stalls are bazaars for the sale of stolen wares, but the wares are necessarily all of foreign production. How is it possible for any high ideals to be generated in a country whose people are (intellectually) mere dependents upon foreign modes, vogues, and criterions of judgment? How shall we have a sane public vision and a sound public sense of morality so long as our bookstores are but whitened literary fence-dens? Mr. Lowell's sentence, "A book honestly come by is better than a cheap book," would look like humor if used as a sign over any publishing house in America, perhaps, and yet it is thought a matter of wonder that the art of fiction in this country is at a low ebb. A moral taint is more insinuating than any known essential substance. Dishonesty in one branch of the book-making business must affect the whole process from pen-nib to press and saleroom. On the other hand, there is no escape from popular corruption in literary taste, in social usage, in political purpose, and in moral quality, so long as bad books, alien books, books inimical to republican life and deadly to the social simplicity and moral purity of a democratic people, are read by our population in preference to American books.

In conclusion, I may say that the attitude of the American Congress toward this question of international copyright has been demoralizing in the extreme. It is to be hoped that Congress may soon atone for having said (by indirection) to the American people that it is morally right for us to steal and be stolen from, provided always that the subject of the theft is the property that an author has in the product of his literary labor; but no future Congress can ever quite undo the evil which has been wrought in the fibre of American life by the iteration and reiteration of such a doctrine.

MAURICE THOMPSON.

II.

AMERICAN AUGURIES.

IN THE winter of 1849 Sir Roderick Murchison received a boxful of minerals gathered in the foothills of the Australian Alps, and at once published a circular predicting the advent of a time when the bonanza sensation of upper California would repeat itself in the highlands of New South Wales. Sir Roderick himself had never visited that colony, and could not learn that gold had ever been discovered in southern Australia; but the resemblance of the minerals to those of the Ural and the Sierra Nevada sufficed to convince him that the precious metal must exist in large quantities. The subsequent discovery of placer-deposits rivalling those of the Sacramento Valley hardly astonished the geological prophet; he had felt sure that time would, sooner or later, confirm his prediction, because, as he expressed it in a letter to an Australian friend, "the analogy held good in all other particulars."

By a similar method of inference we might often anticipate the destiny of nations, even at the risk of awakening the anathemas of those metaphysicians who persist in considering man as an *alter ens*—a being governed by laws distinct from or even opposed to those of Nature in general. "For many years," says Herbert Spencer, "after men of science had become uniformitarians in geology, they remained catastrophists in biology; while recognizing none but natural agencies in the genesis of the earth's crust, they ascribed to supernatural agency the genesis of the organisms on its surface. Nay more, among those who are convinced that living

beings in general have been evolved by the continued interaction of forces everywhere operating, there are some who make an exception of man, or who, if they admit that his body has originated in the same manner as the bodies of other creatures, yet allege that his mind has not been evolved, but specially created."

The bias of a similar prejudice might scout the validity of such inferences as the prediction that the propaganda of our temperance reformers will achieve its main success in the Southern States of the American Republic, while the doctrine of political liberalism will find its most favorable soil further north; yet in comparing the social development of Europe and North America it cannot be denied that "the analogy holds good in all other respects." Like Great Britain, New England has become a hive of industry; like southern Europe, New Spain (as the Spaniards used to call their Mexican colony) has evolved a large crop of mendicants and miracle-mongers. There are strongholds of conservatism in the upper Alleghanies, as in the upper Alps; and the deserts of southern Arizona, like the *despollados* of southern Spain, are beginning to bristle with bandits. There is no doubt that the prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic intoxicants—medicated "bitters" and all—is destined to become the law of the United States, but it is equally certain that the strict enforcement of that law will prove far easier in Georgia than in Maine or Massachusetts. Summer heat is an eloquent temperance argument. "Whoever drinks stimulating liquors," says Dr. J. T. Gardner, "and travels in the hot sun, will certainly suffer from headache, and in countries where *miasmata* prevail he will be far more liable to the attack of epidemic diseases." That physiological fact is the chief secret of the comparative temperance of nations whose habits, in other respects, would almost seem to justify the belief in the correlation of low morals and low latitudes. The southern coast towns of the future may swarm with lazzaroni, but southern toppers will abound only in the chill highland districts, where even now the demand for alcohol would survive the demolition of illicit distilleries.

Those same highland districts, however, will remain strongholds of political independence for centuries after the often-predicted Cæsars of the South may have established their court in Nashville or Atlanta; and southern Pontiffs, too, will find it difficult to enforce their dogmas upon the Waldenses and Covenanters of western North Carolina—even if the flavor of those dogmas should be sweetened by the development of southern poetry and southern art. The material prosperity of our national territory will continue to increase for a series of generations, irrespective of political changes, for there is no doubt that the least pressure of over-population will extend the southern boundaries of Anglo-America, and only absolute ignoring of historical analogies can fail to foresee the day when the peril of an Ethiopian marasmus will be obviated by a fierce, but promptly-decisive, war of races. Before long—perhaps before the semi-centennial of Emancipation—increased number and of material resources will tempt the beneficiaries of the Fifteenth Amendment to seal their doom by trying conclusions with the descendants of their former masters, and I will here record the prediction that within the life-term of many of my contemporaries the scenes of the Seminole War will repeat themselves in the swamps of the Mississippi Valley, and that before the end of the twentieth century Sambo Africanus will have become a sporadic phenomenon anywhere north of the twentieth parallel.

The time is near when "arbor festivals" will be too popular to be limited to a single day in the year. Judging from old-world analogies, the progress of forest-destruction will, before long, reduce a large area of our farm-lands to the necessity of artificial irrigation. All through the lowlands of our southern cotton States, but especially in western Arkansas, western Georgia, and central Alabama, severe droughts will become a yearly affliction, and a considerable portion of southern Missouri and central Texas will become too dry for agricultural purposes. Droughts will drive an ever-increasing number of lowland settlers towards the foothills of the southern Alleghanies, which are undoubtedly destined to become the most productive portion of our national territory, not even excepting the garden-lands of the Sacramento Valley, where the disappearance of the Sierra

forests will yearly reduce the available means of irrigation. A detritus of treeless mountain slopes will shoal the estuaries of our eastern seaboard, especially at the mouths of the Savannah and Potomac; and the reckless destruction of the Adirondack woodland may tend to obstruct navigation on the upper Hudson, which even now is, as it were, living rather beyond its means by occupying quarters (very probably a prehistoric outlet of the St. Lawrence) too spacious for its proper resources.

Locusts, too, will sooner or later pay yearly visits to the cereal plains of the Mississippi Valley, but even before that time the necessity of protective forest-laws will be demonstrated by a still more impressive *argumentum ad hominem*. The climatic changes which never fail to follow the disappearance of arboreal vegetation make summer droughts more severe, but at the same time tend to make winter floods more and more destructive; and the experience of the eastern continent has established the fact that the valleys liable to the most ruinous inundations are those of rivers fed by numerous highland streams (bringing down the floods of torrents swollen by the sudden thaw of accumulated snows), like the River Po, the Oder, and the Rhone, or of large rivers following the line of an *isotherm*, rather than of a meridian, and thus receiving the simultaneous drainage of a large area opening the sluice-gates of its spring flood, not gradually, but at once, like the Yang-tse-Kiang, whose inundations are known to have done China more harm than all her wars and epidemics taken together. But the Ohio happens to combine the two elements of peril, and will yet avenge the fatuous waste of its hill forests by snow floods routing the settlers of its bottom-lands as the inhabitants of a Lancashire mill valley are routed by the bursting of a large reservoir.

Will the converts of Mormonism establish their empire in Spanish America? *Quien sabe?* But it seems clear that their schism has passed the repressible stage—though Spiritualism may eventually prove a more formidable foe to Orthodoxy and the chief rival of that reviving Nature-worship which is already gathering its votaries in our turner-halls and mountain resorts.

The continued influx of foreign elements will make it difficult to repress a reaction of Nativism; though, on the other hand, our open frontier would hopelessly complicate the problem of enforcing restrictive edicts; but the next three decades will partly obviate the dilemma by diverting the stream of European emigration to African and South American Eldorados.

Trans-Atlantic traffic will possibly be modified by quite novel systems of locomotive machinery, but I predict that, in the meantime, the perils of the sea will yet be diminished by means of *companion steamers*—passenger packets starting pairwise and keeping close enough for mutual assistance in case of accident, the probability being about as a million to one against the chance of their simultaneous shipwreck.

FELIX L. OSWALD.

III.

THE FUTURE OF THE NEWSPAPER.

"ARE the newspapers, especially the Sunday editions, likely to keep on increasing in size, or is there a limit at which the line will be drawn? If the latter, where is the limit to be placed? It is becoming burdensome even to glance through one of the Sunday editions, but if one wishes to keep up with the times he must do so, for the very thing which it is important for him to know may be hidden away at the bottom of the last column, in the most unlikely place; and yet if he should overlook it, the result might be serious. Of course, the pages that are wholly given up to advertising can be disposed of in short order, but all the others must at least be carefully looked at."

"For my part, I wish there were no Sunday papers at all; not because I am a strict Sabbatarian or because I am simple enough to believe that the work of making the Sunday papers is to any large extent done on Sunday. I am unable to see anything wicked in reading a Sunday paper, and, of course, I know that it is Monday's paper, not Sunday's, which is prepared on Sunday. My objection is not a sentimental one; it is purely practical. I like to go to church on Sunday morning.